

## ABSTRACT

A needle apparatus having a thin walled sleeve and a tubular needle closely engaged by the sleeve. The needle has a sharp point which initially extends from the sleeve. The needle and sleeve are mounted to a hub and are longitudinally moveable relative to one another. The needle is arranged to pierce tissue and the sleeve enters the incision formed by the needle. The needle may then be withdrawn from the tissue by applying traction to the hub. The sleeve is retained in place in the tissue as a result of pressure applied radially by surrounding tissue